attached with gallantry awards, which have been increased from time to time. The last such increase was made in 1999 on the basis of the recommendations of the Fifty Pay Commission. The scale of monetary allowance in respect of Param Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra is as follows:—

Gallantry Award	Monetary Allowance (Rs.)
(i) Param Vir Chakra	1,500/-per month
(ii) Ashoka Chakra	1,400/-per month
(iii) Maha Vir Chakra	1,200/-per month

2. In addition to these allowances, certain other facilities are being provided which are as under:—

(i) Gallantary awardees are exempted from telephone registration, Installation and normal rental charges.

(ii) Issue of 1st class/2nd AC sleeper complementary card pass to recipients and their widows (along with one companion).

(iii) Indian Airlines gives 75% concession in the Normal Economy Class Fare to the recipients of Param Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Kirti Chakra.

(iv) Pension of gallantary awardees/widows is exempted from income tax.

(v) Various benefits like one time cash grant, land/cash in lieu of land, annuity, etc. are also extended, as decided by the state governments from time to time.

Development of Visakhapatnam Airport

2596. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

whether there is a Rs. 200 crore project proposal for development of Visakhapatriam Airport, including construction of a new terminal building and runway;

if so, the details and cost thereof;

the progress made therein so far; and

whether this is likely to be completed the next rainy season to avert and avoid flooding of the airport and if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government has sanctioned the upgradation of Visakhapatanam Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 191.52 crores, out of which Rs. 141.52 crore is being funded by the Ministry of Defence and Rs. 25 crore by the Airport Authority of India and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The estimated cost of new runway, apron taxi track and isolation bay is Rs. 90.80 crore. The new terminal building is not a part of this project.

70% of the total work package has been completed as on 31 3.2006.

the project is likely to be completed as scheduled by December 2006. The flood control measures for the airport are not part of the project and are to be taken by the State Government.

Joint Development of Futuristic Weapon System With USA

2597. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of the proposal from USA in regard to Jointly developing futuristic weapon system indicating details of its term of reference?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): There is no proposal from USA for Joint Development of "Futuristic Weapon System"

Vacation of spectrum used by Defence

2598. Dr. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

whether Government has decided to vacate 45 MHZ of spectrum being used by Defence for use of cellular operators;

if so, the total cost of release of spectrum for civil use; and

the manner in which the communication needs of the Defence will be met?